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# Message Text

SECRET

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43
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSC-05

NSCE-00 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 SAM-01 SP-02 ACDA-10

MC-01 L-01 PM-03 DODE-00 /054 W
---------- 115012
O P 191150Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 056
INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION UN

S E C R E T ATHENS 6235

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR CY EEC
SUBJECT: BITSIOS VIEWS ON CYPRUS AND EC-9 INITIATIVE
REF: ATHENS 6112

1. IN MEETING WITH DCM AUG 18, DEVOTED PRIMARILY
TO OTHER SUBJECT (NOTAL) FONMIN BITSIOS USED OCCASION
TO "THINK ALOUD" ABOUT PRESENT STATUS OF CYPRUS PROBLEM
AND PROSPECTS FOR ACHIEVING PROGRESS THROUGH EC-9
INITIATIVE. HIS PRESENTATION FOLLOWED GENERAL
LINES PREVIOUSLY DEVELOPED BY TZOUNIS LAST WEEK (REFTEL).
HE ARGUED THAT CONDITIONS MIGHT BE MORE FAVORABLE NOW
THAN LATER FOR BREAKING CYPRUS DEADLOCK AND THAT ITALIANS
SHOULD DISPATCH EMISSARY PROMPTLY TO ANKARA, ATHENS AND
NICOSIA. UNLESS TURKS WERE INDUCED TO INSTRUCT DENKTASH
TO BE FLEXIBLE IN FOURTH ROUND OF INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS
IN NY SEP 8-9, BITSIOS FEARED THAT THIS MEETING
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WOULD FAIL. IF NO PROGRESS WERE REGISTERED BEFORE OPENING

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OF UNGA BITSIOS SAW REAL DANGER THAT PARTIES TO THE
CYPRUS DISPUTE WOULD BECOME PRISONERS OF THEIR OWN
RHETORIC AND POSITIONS WOULD BECOME MORE INTRANTABLE
THAN EVER.

2. BITSIOS COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY ITALIANS WERE SO
RELUCTANT TO MOVE AHEAD. THEY KNEW THAT THE EC-9 INITIATIVE
HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED AND WAS SUPPORTED BY THE US. OTHER
EC-9 MEMBERS APPEARED TO FAVOR PROMPT ACTION. BITSIOS
UNDERSTOOD THAT FRG AMB WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH
CAGLAYANGIL AUG 18 AND BELIEVED THAT GERMANS WOULD
ENCOURAGE TURKS TO BE FLEXIBLE. BOTH BONN AND LONDON HAD,
AT LEAST INITIALLY, SEEMED TO FAVOR QUICK ACTION. ITIALIANS
HOWEVER WERE EXPRESSING FEAR OF FAILURE AND DESIRE FOR
FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITHIN EC-9 BEFORE MAKING DIRECT
ITALIANS WERE MOVING SLOWLY BECAUSE OF COMPLEXITY OF
CYPRUS PROBLEM OR WHETHER THEY HAD "OTHER REASONS". HE
ASKED WHETHER US CONTINED TO SUPPORT THE EC-9 INITIATIVE.

3. DCM REPLIED THAT, AS GOG HAD BEEN INFORMED BEFORE, WE
WELCOMED WHATEVER CONTRIBUTION THE EC-9 INITIATIVE COULD
MAKE TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS ON CYPRUS. WE BELIEVED HOWEVER
THAT THE MANNER AND TIMING OF THEIR APPROACH SHOULD BE UP
TO THE ITALIANS AND THEIR EC-9 PARTNERS. WE DID NOT
BELIEVE THAT THE US SHOULD TRY TO DICTATE
THEIR TACTICS. GOG SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED
THAT THE ITALIANS WERE PROCEEDING CAUTIOUSLY. THE COM-
PLEXITIES OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM REQUIRED THAT ANY INTER-
MEDIARY BE SURE OF HIS GROUND BEFORE PROCEEDING. IN
DCM'S OPINION THIS WAS REASON ENOUGH FOR THE ITALIANS
TO MOVE CAREFULLY AND DELIBERATELY.

4. BITSIOS SAID THAT HE WAS INCLINED TO AGREE WITH THIS
ASSESSMENT BUT CONTINUED TO BE WORRIED THAT PRESENT
OPPORTUNITIES WOULD BE LOST UNLESS THE ITALIANS SPEEDED
UP THEIR TIMETABLE. HE UNDERSTOOD THE US POSITION AND
WAS NOT ASKING US TO TAKE ANY FURTHER ACTION
AT THIS TIME. HE DID HOWEVER WISH THE SECRETARY TO
KNOW THAT, IN GOG'S OPINION, SEP 8-9 INTER-COMMUNAL
MEETING HAD SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE. DENKTASH HAD HINTED
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AT THE THIRD ROUND IN CIENNA THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO
TALK ABOUT TERRITORY AND REFUGEES. THERE WAS THEREFORE
A REAL POSSIBILITY FOR A BREAKTHROUGH. DEMIREL AND
CAGLAYANGIL SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO KEEP DENKTASH ON
THE COURSE THAT HE HAD TENTATIVELY OUTLINED IN VIENNA.
PROGRESS IN NEW YORK COULD BE HELPFUL TO ANKARA WHEN THE
US CONGRESS LATER IN SEPTEMBER RECONSIDERED THE QUESTION
OF ARMS DELIVERY TO TURKEY. SUCH PROGRESS WOULD

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ALSO REDUCE THE DANGER OF INFLAMATORY DEBATE IN THE UNGA. BITSIOS CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT IF THE FOURTH ROUND WERE SIMPLY A REPETITION OF STALE ARGUMENTS AND NO SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS WAS ACHIEVED, HE WOULD BE DEEPLY PESSIMISTIC FOR THE FUTURE. HE ASKED AGAIN THAT HIS VIEWS BE CONVEYED TO THE SECRETARY, ADDING THAT HE REALIZED THAT THE SECRETARY WAS DEEPLY ENGAGED ONCE AGAIN IN THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM "UNFORTUNATELY FOR US".

5. COMMENT: WHILE BITSIOS IS NOT ASKING US TO TAKE ANY PARTICULAR ACTION WITH THE ITALIANS OR THE EC-9, IT IS CLEAR THAT HE WANTS TO KEEP US FOCUSSED ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. HE DOUBTLESS HOPES THAT THE EC-9 INITIATIVE WILL PUT ADDITIONAL PRESSURE ON THE TURKS TO BE FLEXIBLE BUT IS STILL CONVINCED THAT THE KEY TO TURKISH CONCESSIONS LIES IN THE US POSITION AND THE ROLE OF THE SECRETARY. KUBISCH

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